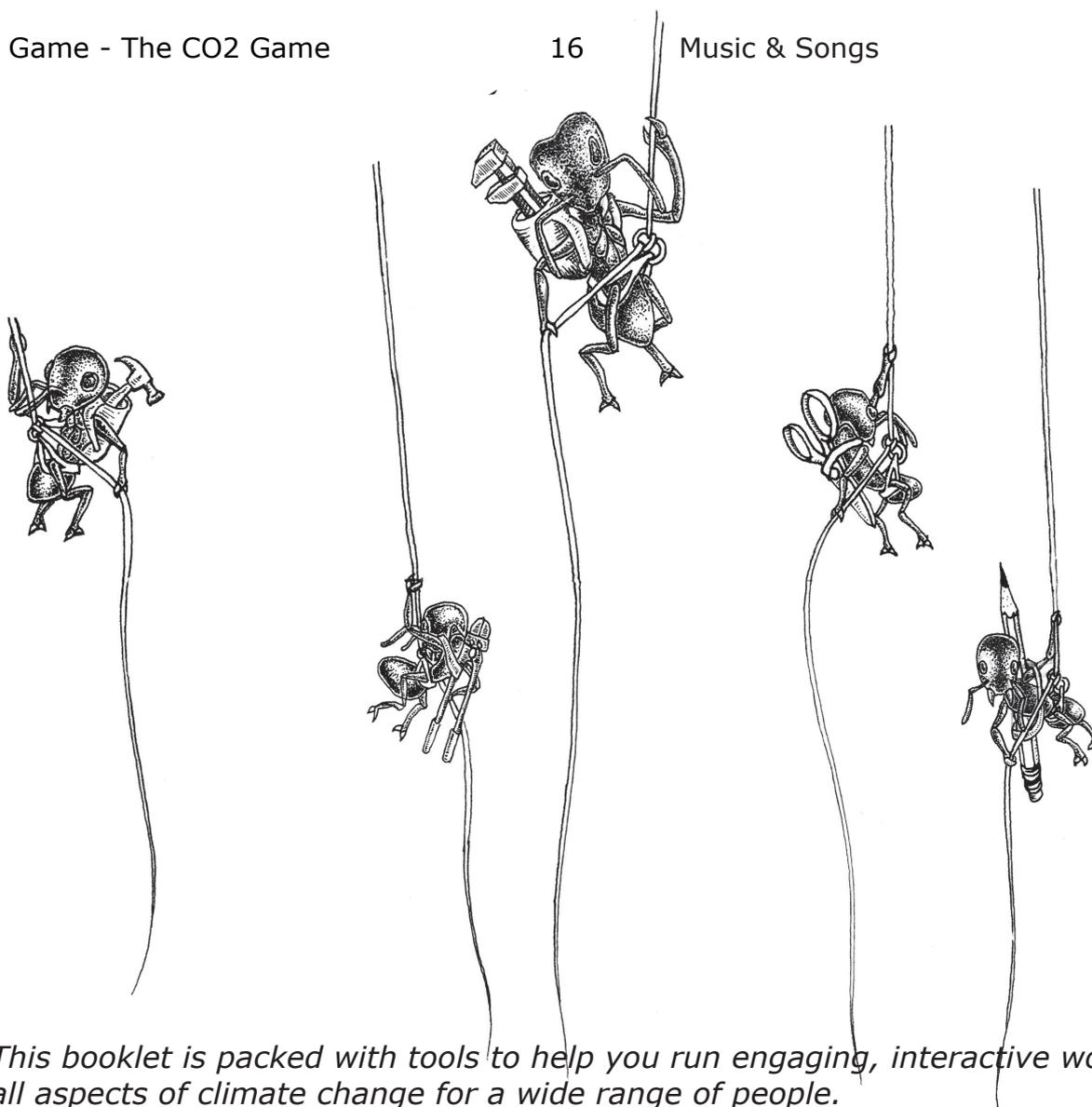


CLIMATE ACTION

POPULAR EDUCATION RESOURCE PACK

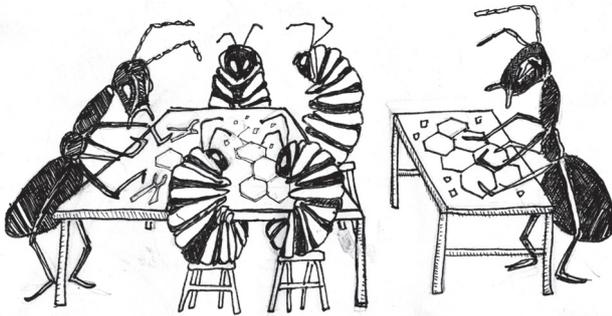


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This booklet is packed with tools to help you run engaging, interactive workshops on all aspects of climate change for a wide range of people.

Much of the material and lessons learned presented here were road-tested during the Rising Tide North America Climate Action Tour. Thanks to the Beehive collective for loan of their artwork for this pack and thanks also to the Trapeze popular education collective for so many ideas & resources (trapeze.clearerchannel.org). For more information or feedback please email [cookie\[at\]risingtide.org.uk](mailto:cookie@risingtide.org.uk)



"In Blackburg VA, the local organizer had been very successful in drawing a large group of people who worked in many different progressive groups that are often fractured and have trouble communicating and sharing information / resources. Coming together under the broad topic of "community responses to climate change," people had much more to share with each other than anything we could have brought to them.

It was especially inspiring to facilitate the discussion to be as broad as possible to connect all the work people were doing - we spent quite some time discussing prison abolition and the struggle for self-determination in Palestine, connecting prison growth to massive local mountain top coal mining and the Israeli occupation to control of water resources - not your average discussion on climate change!"
- Julian

Climate change is happening already and affecting life all over the planet. We need to do as much as we can to stop it getting any worse, but we also need to be prepared as communities to deal with the effects of what's coming as the changes get more severe; we won't be able to rely on governments when resources become scarce.

Communities are preparing to respond to climate events and to be able to provide for their own needs. This translates to the many projects already in action and the many more in creation... Community gardens, health collectives, permaculture projects, bike collectives, wind & solar projects, social events, cross community solidarity projects, skill shares and practical training.

Popular education is an integral part of this work as these projects rarely emerge from people being told that things need to happen. They emerge instead from people acting on the needs in their area and from cross-pollination of ideas from other places and cultures.

One of the most rewarding things as a popular educator is to bring together groups of people and find common interests and spark conversations and projects.

At our New York tour stop we were doing a mind mapping exercise on disaster relief. The different needs were mapped out by the group and then it was found that different people that had never met before had skills in many of the identified areas. An email list sheet was passed around and taken away by one of the participants to organise their next meeting. A new project started!

- Soph

There is a film of a Rising Tide tour stop online, including examples of many of the exercises detailed here in action.

www.risingtide.org.uk/resources/films

Circle fixations

"OK, I'm obsessed, I admit it. If I enter a space and there are chairs in rows the first thing I do is dive in and rearrange them, often before I even take my bag off my back..."

It influences so much... The power dynamic, inclusiveness, the attention and how involved people feel they are. Also, for me I want people who have not met, and might work together in the future, to spend the whole session looking at each others' faces, not just ours.

Who knows if they might bump into each other on the street sometime soon and spark off a whole new exciting project."

- Soph



Go round

To set the scene for the group and emphasise the fact that this is going to be a participatory event, it's really good to start with a 'go round' of those present, where we go around the circle getting people to introduce themselves. Depending on group size, you can ask people what they hope to share and gain from attending the session.

On the tour we would end the go round with longer introductions of ourselves as the facilitators: explaining why we are part of Rising Tide and the tour, and the particular 'lens' we brought to the issues involved based on our experiences.



Climate Camp

A good introduction to many of the themes of the tour is the intro to the Climate Camp movie. A 15 min. trailer for the movie can be seen here:

www.climatecamp.org.uk/reclaimpowervideo.php

The Climate Camps have been supported internationally by the Rising Tide network. www.climatecamp.org.uk



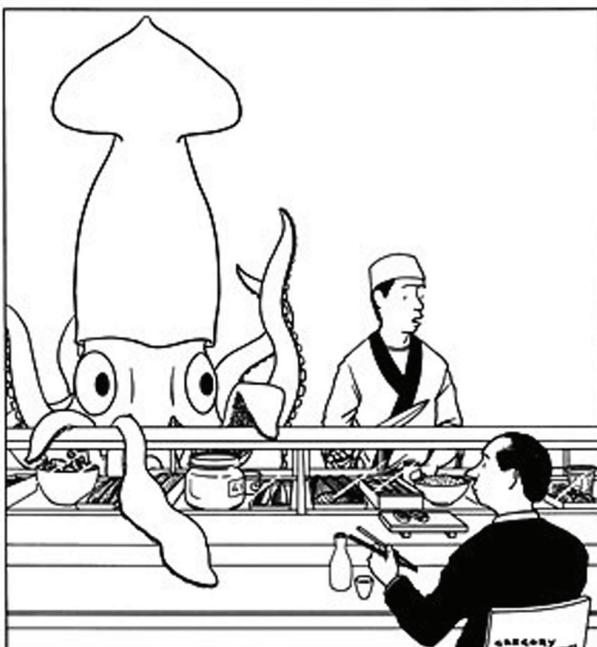
5-10 Mins

This game sometimes made it in and sometimes didn't, depending on time available, the mood of the facilitators and the group we were working with.

There are some problems with the exercise, especially as it requires mobility and people being comfortable with touching other people. However it is a good ice-breaker, a way to establish some 'common ground' within the group and get an idea of the people in the workshop.



'Common Ground' in Bloomington Indiana



"He thinks he can do more good working within the system"

Get everyone in the circle on their feet and explain that you are about to read out some statements... if they agree with them, or it resonates with them they should take a step forward. If not they should stay where they are. Some of the statements we used are below.

Eventually most people should be in the centre of the circle.

Then get everyone to grab two hands of different people in the mass you now have squished at the centre of the room and then tell them to untangle themselves without letting go. Everyone now works together to untangle the knot. You could make some pun here about how collectively we can unravel problems...

If a climate-related disaster were to hit my town I am confident that I would have the ability and resources to escape.

I can afford to eat organic food.

I, or people I know, have faced state repression for our campaigning.

I drive a car.

I sometimes feel alone or unsupported in my work.

I grow food at home.

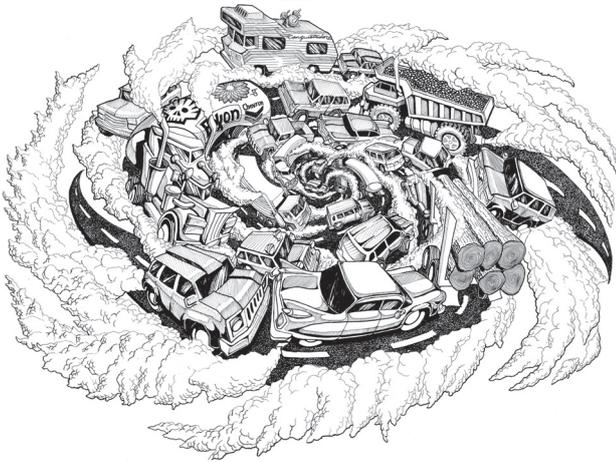
I rode my bike here.

I have a strong community I feel supported in.

Sometimes I am afraid our campaigning will have no impact.

I think we need to work within the system.

I am excited to challenge myself by working with groups and individuals that have different perspectives and experiences from me.



We don't focus much on climate science; there are plenty of groups out there who do, and are very accessible. We'd rather leave the time and space to much of what others (like Al Gore) leave out... the false solutions & the resistance.

However there are a few main points that are often left out in many of the things you read about climate change - and we all need to know them!

We mention tipping points, lag effects, and feedback loops, since these show how dire and pressing the situation is and are good for motivating action.

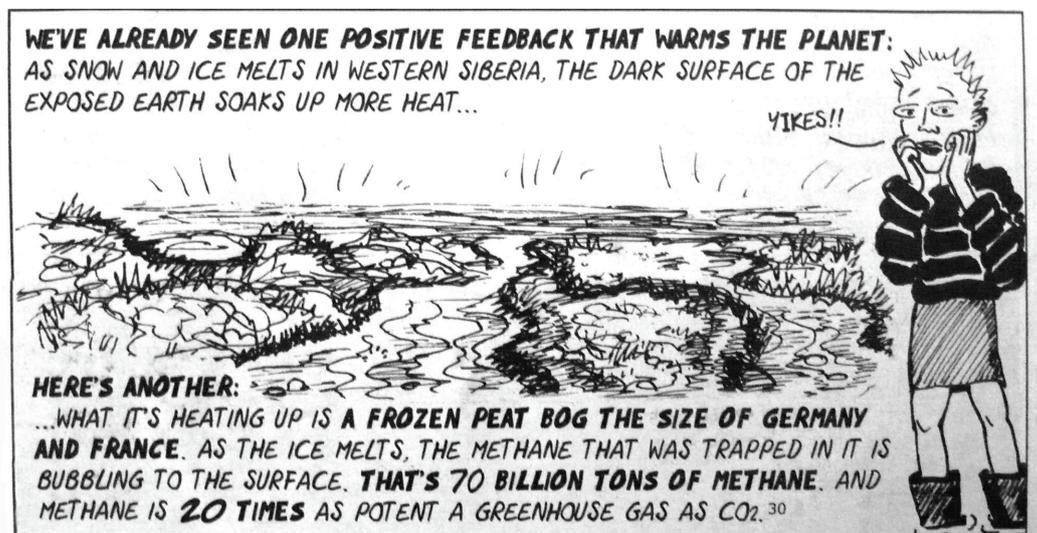
-tipping points happen suddenly and we are rapidly approaching the point of no return.

-there is a lag effect in the impact of emissions. What we are experiencing today is from emissions approx. 40 years ago (a good metaphor is that the sun is highest at noon but the day is hottest at 3; or the summer solstice in June results in the most sunlight but August is the hottest month.)

-once we provide the initial prompt, feedback loops cycle on themselves and can cause runaway climate change - hence the need to cut almost all emissions massively, TODAY!

Climate Science Links
Union of concerned
scientists www.ucsusa.org
Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change (IPCC)
www.ipcc.ch

One of our favourite resources for clearly explaining much of the climate science and geopolitics of Climate Change is Kate Evans' 'Funny Weather' comic: www.funnyweather.org



5-15 Mins

We found it good to warn people that this could be the most depressing game show ever!

We gave each card to someone in the workshop, had them read it out then put it up on the chart where it should go...

It can be more of a guessing game if you 'stack' the order so the middle ones come out first. Maybe try 2, 4, 3, 5, 1, 6

From the: 'Trapese Resource pack - Educational Workshops for Climate Action'

Create a chart with 1-6 degree temperature rise shown. Have cards each with one of the predicted consequences of climate change below. Ask people at what temperature each consequence is likely to happen.

These facts are drawn from *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*, a book by Mark Lynas, journalist and climate change campaigner. The book tells the story of how our world will change with each degree of temperature rise.

Some of the effects can be placed in any temperature rise bracket (e.g. refugees – already happening!). Use this to stimulate debate!

1°C Tropical coral reefs wiped out. Mount Kilimanjaro loses all its ice. Deserts spread throughout the American mid-West.

2°C: One summer in every two has heatwaves as strong as the one in 2003. Greenland ice sheet begins irreversible collapse, raising sea levels and threatening coastal cities around the world. Polar bears extinct. Glaciers disappear from the Andes, causing drinking water crisis in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.

3°C Collapse of the Amazon ecosystem, destroying half the world's biodiversity and giving a massive boost to global warming. Stronger hurricanes strike tropical coastlines around the world.

4°C Likely collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which holds 5 metres of sea level equivalent. Net food shortage leads to global starvation.

5°C Collapse of human civilisation due to pressures from famine and water shortage. Conflicts emerge as refugees flood into remaining habitable areas.

6°C Mass extinction involving nearly all life on Earth. Only a few human survivors hold on close to the poles.



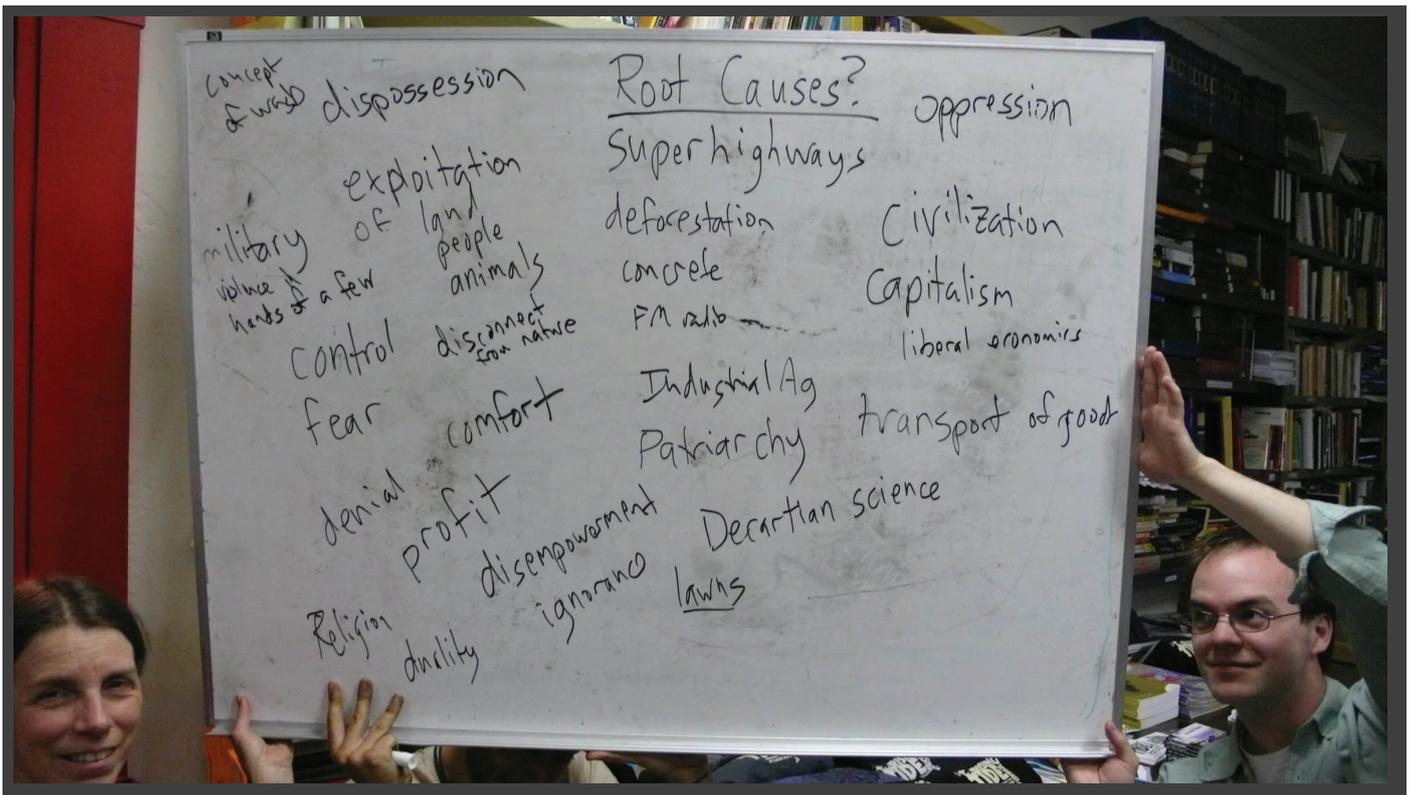
www.trapese.clearerchannel.org
www.marklynas.org/sixdegrees



15 - 30 mins

We love this exercise. It was developed along the road on the Rising Tide North America Spring Roadshow 2007. It can be stretched to be a whole workshop in itself or a major component. It is based around the idea of mind mapping. We've tried many different versions, gradually tweaking it each time. The inspiration came from many places, including the Beehive Collective (it's similar to how they plan out their massive posters) and Trapese (links below).

Start by posing the question 'what are the root causes of climate change', popcorn style (calling them out when ideas pop into people's heads), and writing what people says up on a white board. With the 'bigger' topics we encourage people to break them down a little.

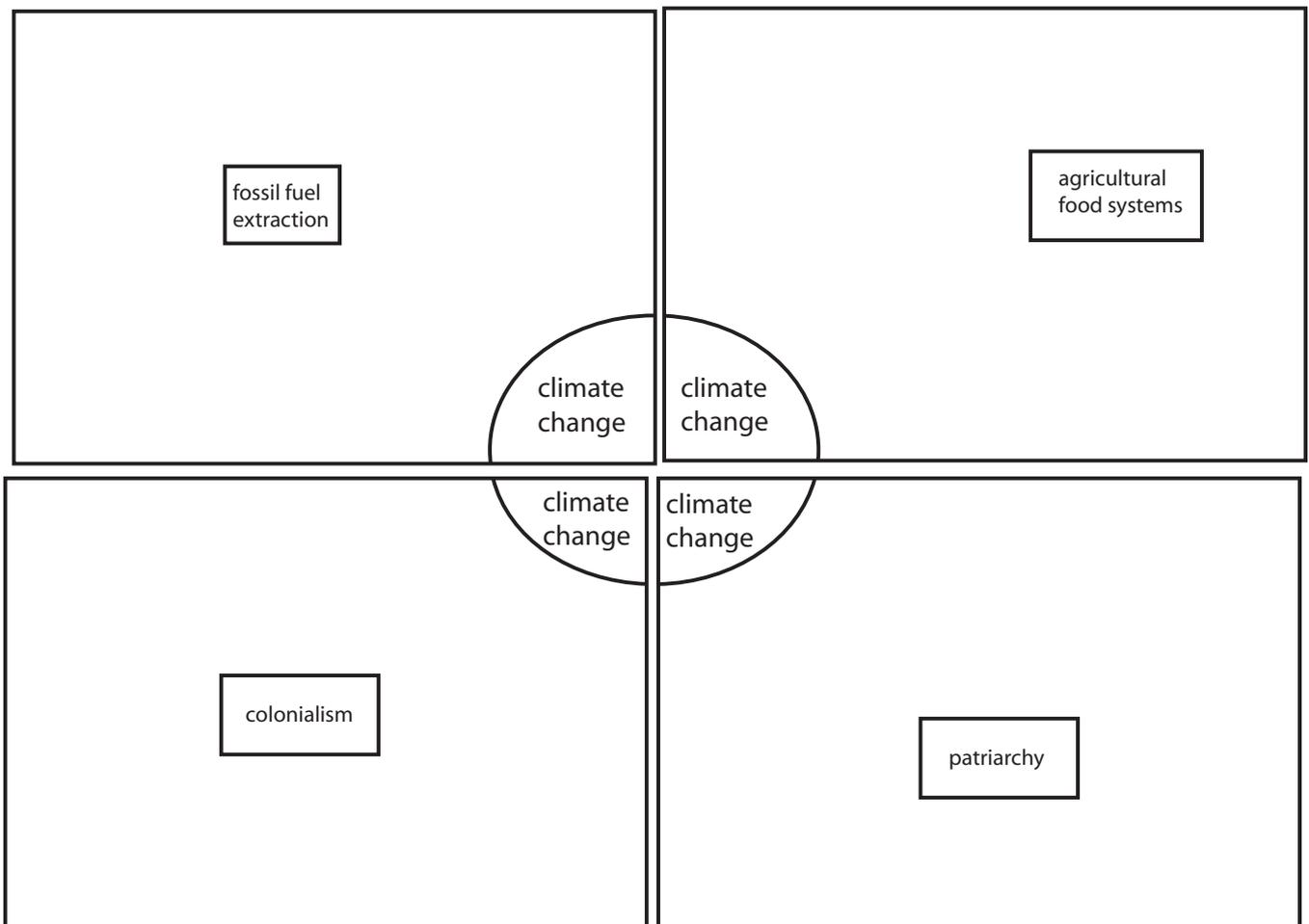


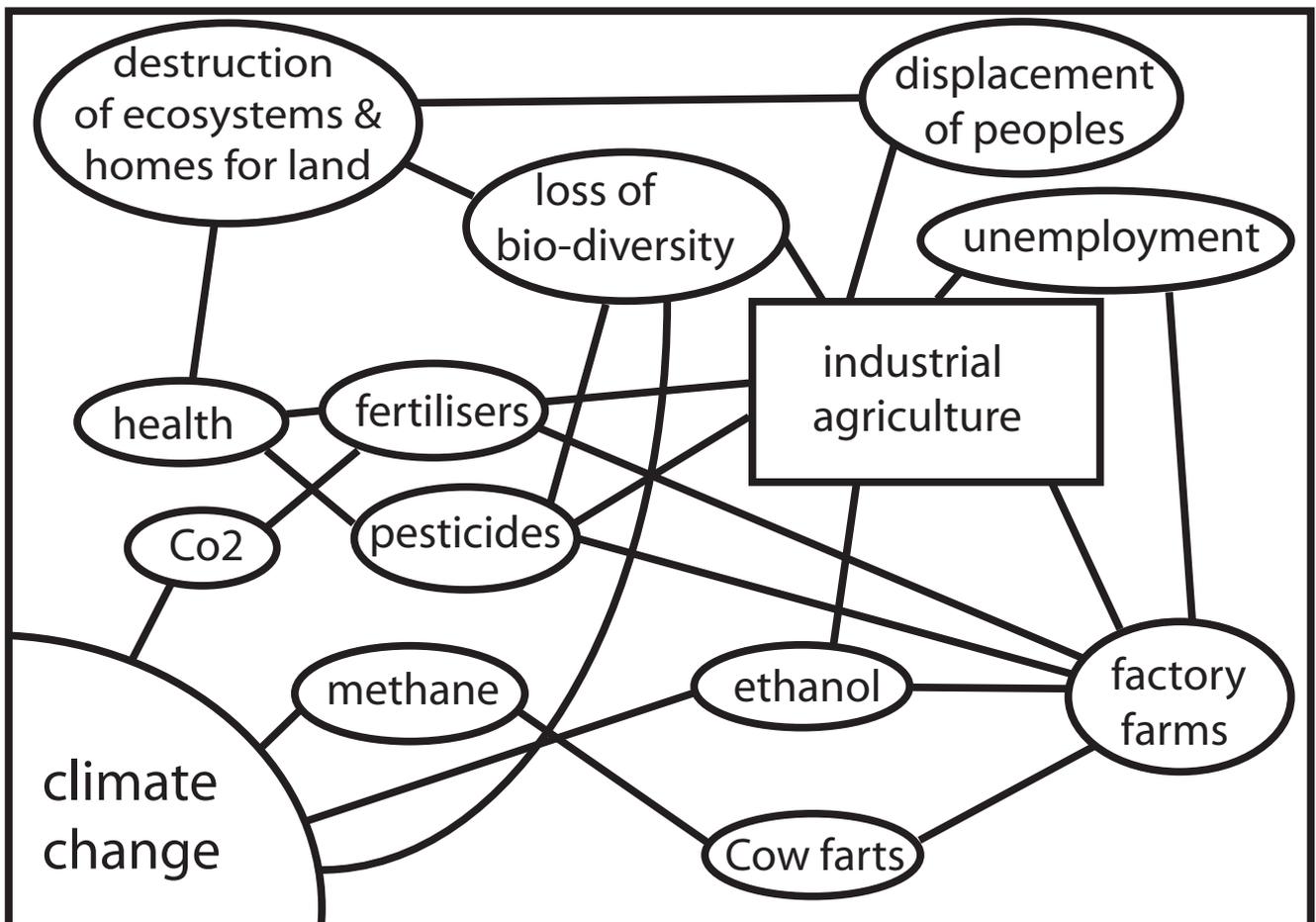
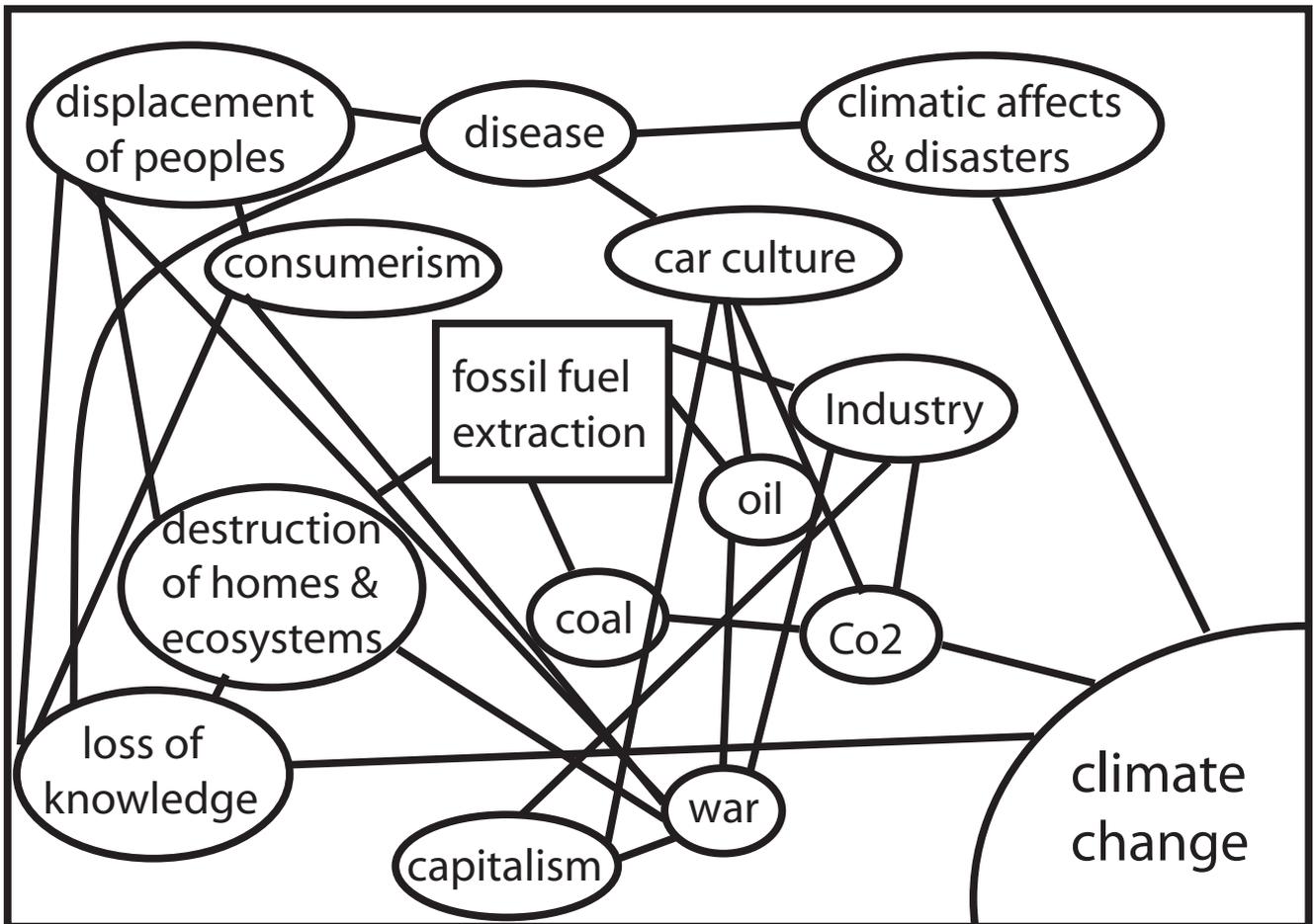
We found it useful to have a facilitator in each group to take notes, as legibility for this exercise is important.

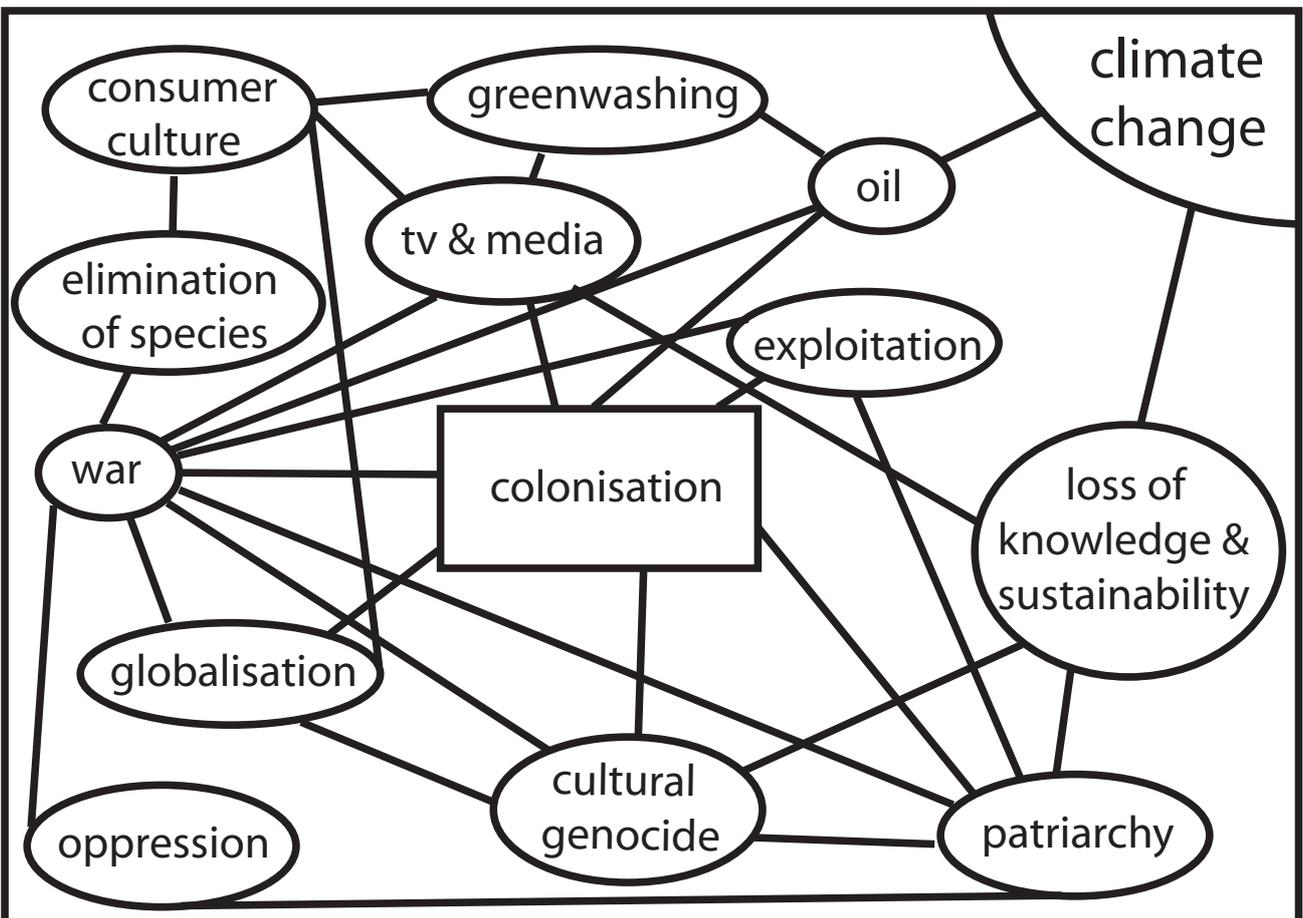
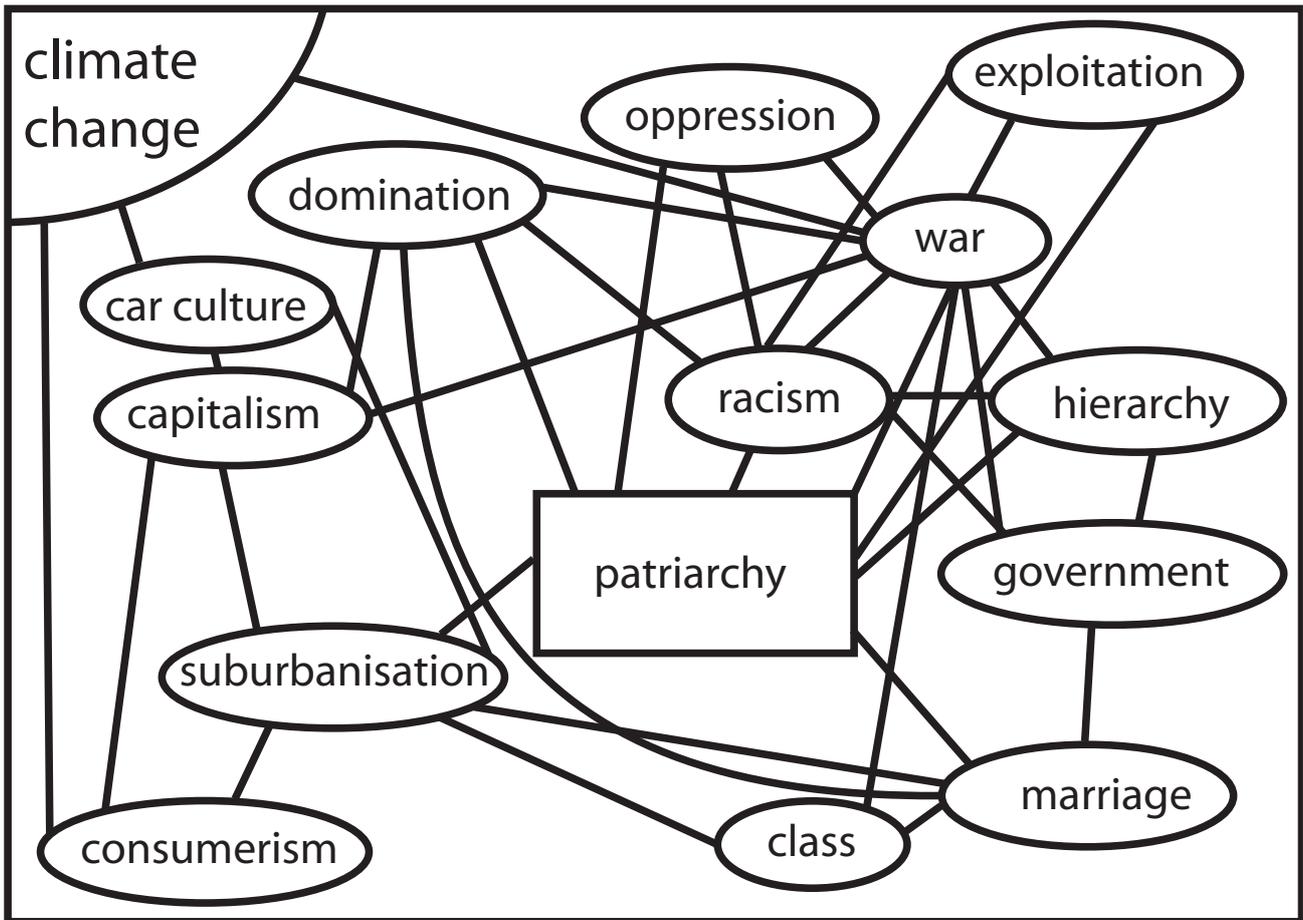
If there are only one or two facilitators, you can suggest people start with a discussion around their topic then you can jump from group to group to get them going.

When your group has a map finished, it helps to explain the next stage and find two volunteers to feed back to the main group.

On the following pages are examples of how it could look... but it depends on the input from each group.







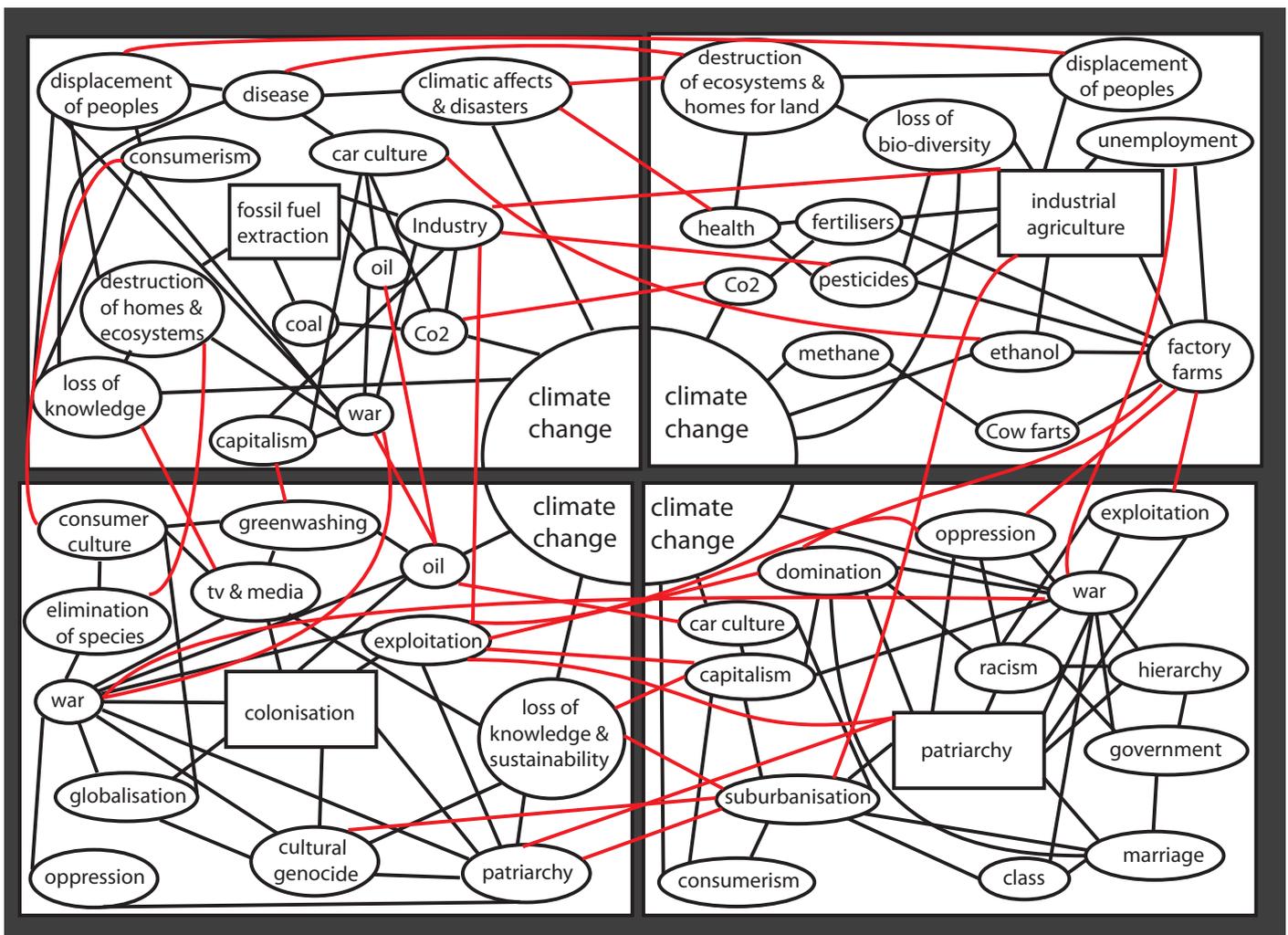
eg:

Displacement of peoples
links to
Destruction of ecosystems & homes

Agricultural food systems
links to
Suburbanisation

When the results started getting too similar from tour stop to tour stop we realised we were inputting too much ourselves and made a big effort to step back and let the groups lead the content.

Then, the exciting part... Put all the maps together. Ask a person from each group to draw the links between the things on their sheet and things they connect with all the other sheets. Give them a different coloured pen than before; red, orange or any lighter colour. They can start by looking for words that are similar... for example in this instance 'war' and 'patriarchy'. Then look for linked subjects.



The black links are the ones done when in the smaller groups and the grey links are from the second stage of connecting the four maps together. There is a larger colour version of this map at the end of this guide.

Exercise - Making the links adventures with mind mapping

It doesn't matter if there are links they miss... it almost gets the point across further if people are left thinking 'ooh! there's another link there, and there...'

Also, it's OK when people go crazy and start linking everything to everything and it really gets the 'everything's connected' idea across.

At the same time as people are linking, get someone else from the group to briefly explain how their group's mind map works.

Go around all four of the groups till it looks a little like the map above.

Alternate ending:

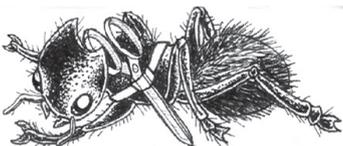
The Beehive collective suggested that if we could get a really big board, we could next put another ring of paper around the mind map and map out solutions from all the problems/causes. If anyone manages this, please send feedback!

www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

www.beehivecollective.org

www.trapeze.clearerchannel.org

www.risingtide.org.uk



There are three powerpoint slide shows about communities resisting Oil, LNG, Coal & Nuclear power and how they are linking their struggles globally. They can be downloaded from the Rising Tide UK Website.



Shell.ppt

Resistance to Shell in Rosspport, Mayo, the Niga Delta & London... how these communities are linking together and combatting the greenwash of the big oil companies.

www.risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Shell.ppt

9.2 MB



Coal.ppt

Resistance to coal mining in Appalachia, Black Mesa, New Zealand & Australia... and how these campaigns are acting in solidarity with each other.

www.risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Coal.ppt

21 MB



Nukes.ppt

Is nuclear power an answer to climate change? A journey into the Australian red centre exposing the environmental racism of the nuclear fuel cycle.

www.risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Nukes.ppt

25.2 MB

Links to all the campaigns mentioned can be found on the links page at the end of this document.

5 mins

You need 10 people, 10 pieces of card (big enough to stand on with 'CO2' on them) and 10 wads of fake cash. Each person stands on a piece of carbon and has a wad of cash.

"You 10 represent the world population of? [ask group...] about 6.5 billion. The CO2 you are standing on represents the amount of carbon we produce globally.

"Anyone want to throw out a few sources of CO2?" [Cars, planes, power stations, cow farts, industrial agriculture... etc.]

"And the money represents the global GDP. - What's GDP?" [ask group...]

"So, there are 6.5 billion people in the world, that's represented by you folks" [point to those standing up] **"Which are the world's wealthiest nations?"** [ask them to guess: USA, UK, Japan, etc. basically G8 countries.] **"Well only 12% of the world's population is part of these countries... so who wants to be rich nations?"**

[Only one person can be rich nations. Ask them & their CO2 to move a little aside.]

"Now, 48% of the world's GDP is made by the world's wealthiest countries"

[Take 4 people's cash and hand it over to rich nations (RN).]

"They also produce 62% of the world's CO2 emissions."

[take 4 CO2s and give to RN. The rest squash onto 5 - RN can spread out over all theirs.]

"There's a reason that just a few countries make almost half the world's money, because those same few countries also are home to 98% of the world's multinational corporations"

[Hand over all but 1 wad of cash to RN.]

"So... The IPCC - who are? anyone know?" [get replies from group: name, then

a one sentence description.]

"The IPCC have reached a consensus that we need to reduce global carbon emissions by 60-80 % etc..."

Ask people **"So looking here.. who has both the financial resources and would have the most effect on cutting down CO2 emissions?"**

[Hopefully everyone points at RN.]

[Tear off a corner of one of the bits of RN's CO2... Wave it around and...]

"So... rich nations have this to offer... Anyone know what this is?" [pause] **"It's the Kyoto protocol. Can anyone explain what this is?... In 20 words or less!"**

[Go to hand 'Kyoto' to majority world... and snatch it away at the last second...]

"However, the USA & Australia won't sign up and it turns out that emissions in all the countries that have signed up have actually risen... How did that happen?... There are a lot of loopholes and trade-offs." [Say what you want about carbon trading here.]

[Chuck little scrap of CO2 away.]

"So, rest of the world. How are you feeling about developed nations?"

[Riot ensues – yay! ... Or people ask for RN to give some back... or not much happens! Thank everyone and they will probably sit back down.]



Carbon trading is essentially a way for the biggest polluters to look like they are doing something about climate change and make a fortune in the process. Governments arbitrarily give out carbon credits, usually to the biggest polluters. Carbon credits are traded as a commodity just like gold or corn.

The CO2 game leads well into a discussion on carbon trading, since this is the loophole mentioned that allows the nations that signed up to Kyoto's petty reductions to actually increase their emissions. We found it good to mention a few key basic problems with carbon trading, such as:

- the fallacy that carbon stored permanently underground can be equated to CO2 that's been burned and released into the carbon cycle.
- the issue that trading carbon is a veiled way to privatise the atmosphere and allow certain powerful corporations to purchase the "right to pollute."

In talking about this false solution, you can reference back to the connections mind-map exercise, pointing out how false solutions play into many other root causes of climate change.

Business as usual

Studies have shown that market incentives are less efficient than strict government regulation of emissions.

And since we know how slow our governments are to act on climate change, it is critical to challenge false solutions that allow business as usual and the increasingly popular desire to quench middle and upper-class guilt through the misleading concept of "offsetting" one's carbon footprint while our planet edges closer to climate catastrophe.



Eucalyptus plantations in Brazil

Offset credits are being given to mono-cropped eucalyptus plantations in Brazil. This case is a stark example of the deep flaws in carbon trading, showing the hypocrisy and clear colonialism inherent in offset projects, and the way that so often it is the poorest people of the world who feel the worst effects of offsetting carbon through "clean development mechanisms".

A powerful telling of this story can be found in *Where the Trees are a Desert*:
www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/trees.pdf

A short paraphrasing of this story would include:

The connections with colonialism

Indigenous nations and Afro-Brazilians violently forced off their land in order to create plantations.

The connections with industrial agriculture

Massive mono-crops, huge water needs and water pollution, and use of agro-

toxic pesticide chemicals that have killed and injured workers.

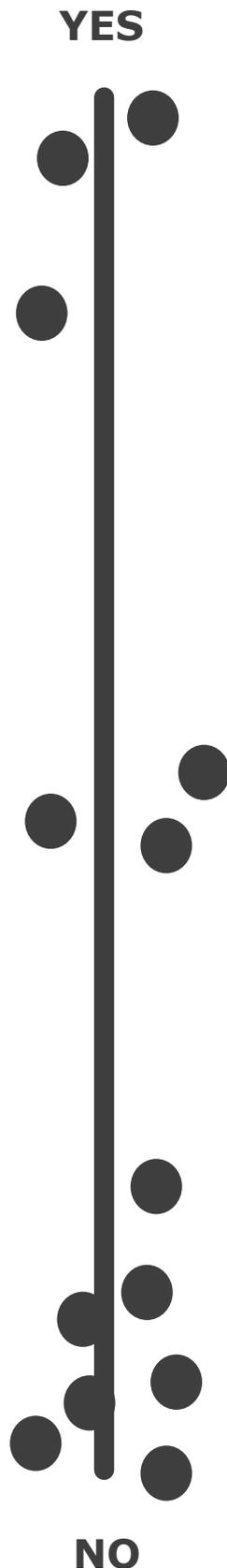
The basic flaws in the logic of tree plantations as a way to offset carbon

The trees are later chopped down and processed into either paper products or burned to make pig iron which is used to make automobile steel... and so clearly the carbon carousel goes around and around.

Links: Carbon Trade Watch (carbontradewatch.org). Two particularly good publications are "Hoodwinked in the Hothouse" (found at www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/hothousecolour.pdf) and "Trouble in the Air: Global Warming and the Privatized Atmosphere" (found at www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/CCS_ENERGYSERIES_1005_COMPLETE.pdf)

5-15 Mins

Taken from the Trapeze Yes/No Game



This activity is to give people a chance to see their opinions in relation to other points of view and to try and defend or persuade others. It is a great way to stimulate debate.

Everyone stand up. Explain that you are all standing on a continuum between YES at one wall and NO on the other, with NOT SURE's somewhere in the middle. Read a statement and ask people to move depending on their point of view.

Tell people that they can also 'role-play' a position other than their own.

Explain that this will be a facilitated discussion and there will be someone (ideally standing on a chair!) taking hands.

When people have moved, ask someone at each extreme end, and in the middle, to explain their view.

Ask anyone if they want to move after what they have heard.

You can choose to make it a quick debate on many topics, or more often on the tour we chose to have a longer debate on one topic:

Are biofuels a solution to climate change?

Other questions / statements (make up more!):

- Is nuclear power a viable, clean alternative to fossil fuels?

- Could renewable energies meet all of our current energy needs?

- Can international agreements like Kyoto be trusted to cut greenhouse gas emissions?

- Are carbon sinks and emissions trading effective ways of reducing carbon emissions?

- Is it desirable that levels of consumerism in the developing world equal that of those in the 'developed' world?

Don't be bio-fools!

The push for biofuels as a solution to climate change is a huge problem for a number of reasons: First, it doesn't address car culture. We should be spending our time learning ways to live without the automobile, not feeding cars our food supply!

In the US, as farmers are rushing to plant corn (95% of US ethanol is made from corn) "fencerow to fencerow," corn prices have shot up, increasing the price of food. There have already been tortilla riots in Mexico City in protest.

With over 865 million hungry people in this world it is very puzzling why we would be growing food for hungry cars instead of for hungry people. A 25 gallon tank of ethanol is enough corn to feed a human for an entire year! Fuel versus food? Don't be bio-fooled!

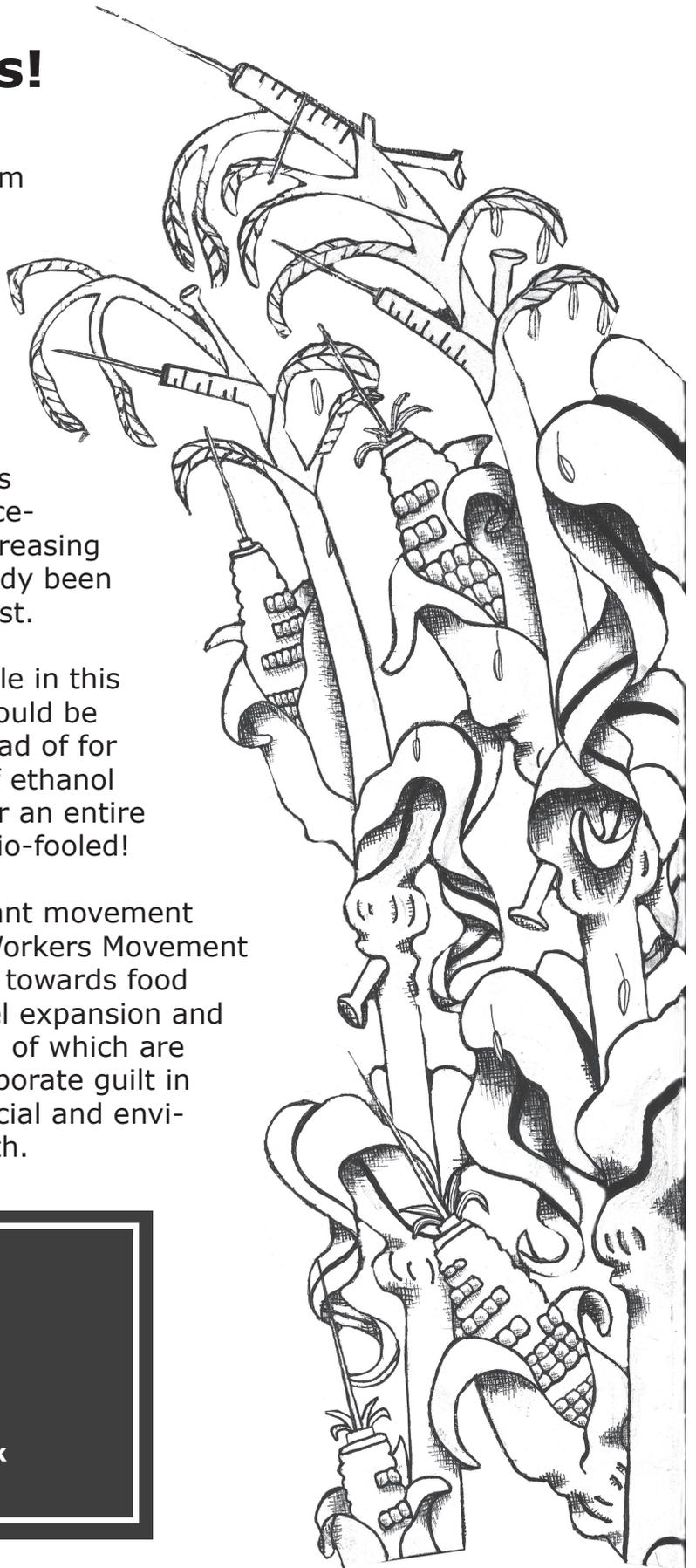
Groups like the international peasant movement Via Campesina and the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil (MST) have been working towards food sovereignty and confronting biofuel expansion and monoculture tree plantations, both of which are used as carbon offsets to ease corporate guilt in the global north while wrecking social and environmental havoc in the global south.

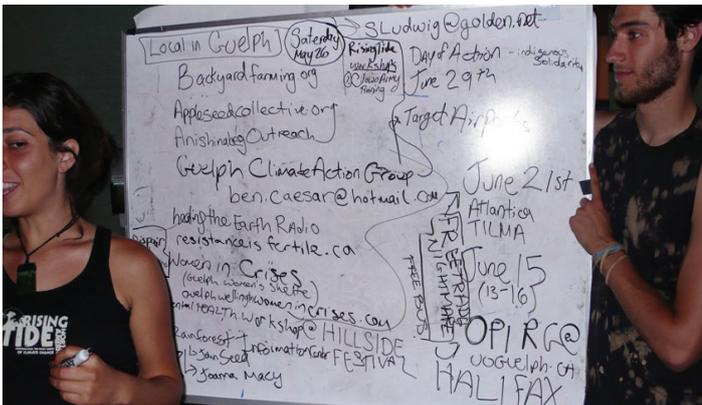
For more info check out:

www.viacampesina.org

www.mstbrazil.org

www.biofuelwatch.org.uk





Once we became hooked on mind maps we found that sometimes in this session it worked well to draw out the discussion as a big mind-map on the white board, and not to just list everything... It really depends on the group and flow of the session.

White board time!

We find this a good time to open up into a big group discussion on positive steps forward.

Climate change is a big subject and we don't pretend we know the solutions... but we also don't want to end the session without some positivity.

Sometimes we facilitate more strongly, for example by hunting out in advance local projects that are already happening. Things like: community gardens, groups resisting all forms of oppression & exploitation, collective bike maintenance, community energy projects, self organisation within communities.

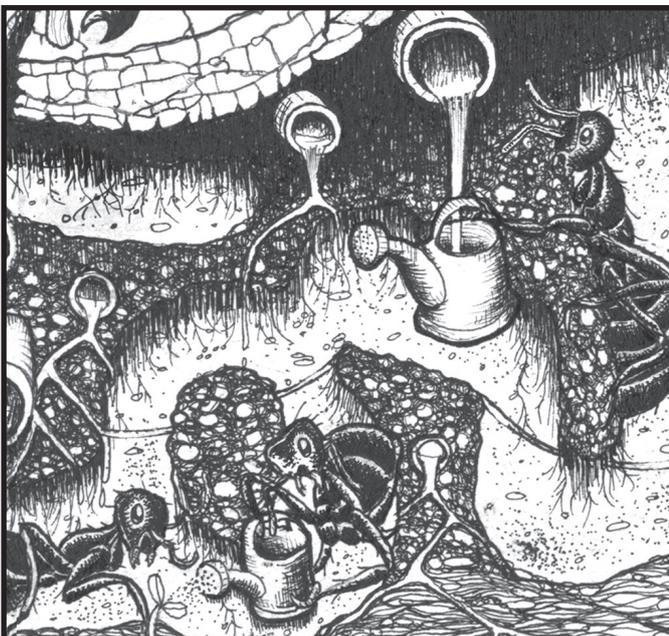
Also we ask what the problems and needs are within the community.

We list everything on a white board, putting problems in red, needs in green and black for projects in existence.

The few things we do usually interject here are:

- Strategies of resistance that tackle capitalism as one of the root causes of climate change.
- The need for a proportionate response to the scale of the problems we face.

Sometimes this is the best part of the session, and sometimes the worst. When it goes well, sometimes we've been able to facilitate new groups starting, or find new support for existing projects.





Groups & Spaces

Its was wide ranging. We visited a mix of schools, info-shops, cafes, high schools, churches & and an intentional Christian community. There were too many colleges. We all agreed our favourite stops were high schools.

'Shindig'

What to call the tour stops was an ongoing question. Words like presentation or show are indicative of a one way flow of information... we settled on 'shindig' for a while... but never were all really happy with any term.

Process

Early on in the tour someone asked us 'When will the presentation be finished' and was told 'never!' And it was true...

Two and three months in and we were still spending a big chunk of every day (most often on the trip to the next tour stop) discussing, de-briefing, tweaking and dissecting... What works, what doesn't, what can we do to make it more effective? We got braver, we got sharper & more confident.



Feedback from a high school student:

Dear Rising tide people,

Growing up in Ithaca it is impossible to avoid activism and in 7th grade i was environmentally and politically involved. But as i got older i became more disillusioned and cynical with the current political and environmental situation (probably a normal teenager thing). I gradually stopped biking everywhere and pestering my parents about buying solar panels.

Your visit reminded me of what is truly important in this world and seeing people who were doing more than writing letters and occasionally writing a check to an environmental organization really inspired me. I feel your visit revitalized dormant energy in me and really made me feel strongly about doing something active about the environment and other problems in society. Today you said something about a person starting a Rising Tide group in Ithaca. I would really like to be part of this (and possibly lead a student wing of it at IHS).

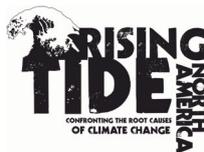
I also loved Evans music (even now I am listening to a CD i got from him). It was really fun to listen to and the lyrics really were amazing. The song about ADHD and how Americans only treat the symptoms instead of just the underlying problems was wonderful and after school I heard a bunch of kids talking about it so it really wasn't just me who it effected.

Peace, Love and Carbon sinks,
- Sam

Want to dig deeper? Some links to explore...



TRAPESE
POPULAR EDUCATION COLLECTIVE



Rising Tide Family

Rising Tide UK www.risingtide.org.uk
Rising Tide North America
www.risingtidenorthamerica.org
Rising Tide Australia www.risingtide.org.au
Art Not Oil www.artnotoil.org.uk
Riot Folk www.riotfolk.org
The Beehive Collective www.beehivecollective.org

Fossil Fuels – Resistance

Camp for Climate Action www.climatecamp.org.uk
Plane Stupid www.planestupid.com
Fight the Pipe www.fightthepipe.co.uk
Shell to Sea www.corribsos.com
Rosspoint Solidarity Camp www.struggle.ws/rsc
Oil Sands Truth (Canada) www.oilsandstruth.org
Save Happy Valley (NZ) www.savehappyvalley.org.nz
MJS (US) www.mountainjusticesummer.org
Black Mesa (US) www.blackmesais.org

Fossil Fuels – Info and Research

Oil Watch www.oilwatch.org
Platform www.platformlondon.org
Raised Voices www.raisedvoices.net

False Solutions

Biofuelwatch www.biofuelwatch.org.uk
Carbon Trade Watch www.carbontradewatch.org
Cheat Neutral www.cheatneutral.com
ETC group www.etcgroup.org
Sinks Watch www.sinkswatch.org

Making the Links

Network for Climate Action
www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk
PGA www.nadir.org/nadir/initiativ/aggp
The Corner House www.thecornerhouse.org.uk
Corporate Watch www.corporatewatch.org
Corpwatch www.corpwatch.org
Energy Justice Network www.energyjustice.net
Friends of the Earth Australia www.foe.org.au
Indigenous Environmental Network
www.ienearth.org

Positive Solutions

Centre for Alternative Technology www.cat.org.uk
Earth Activist Training www.earthactivisttraining.org
Low Impact Living Initiative www.lowimpact.org
Paths Through Utopia www.utopias.eu
Radical Routes www.radicalroutes.org.uk
BioJustice www.rtc.revolt.org
Brazil's Landless Workers Movement
www.mstbrazil.org
Food Not Bombs www.foodnotbombs.net
La Via Campesina www.viacampesina.org

Independent Media

Earth First! Action Reports www.earthfirst.org.uk
Climate Indymedia www.climateimc.org
Indymedia www.indymedia.org
New Internationalist www.newint.org
Schnews www.schnews.org.uk

Climate Info and Science

COIN www.coinet.org.uk
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
(IPCC) www.ipcc.ch
Scientists for Global Responsibility www.sgr.org.uk
Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org

Organising, Facilitation and Popular Education

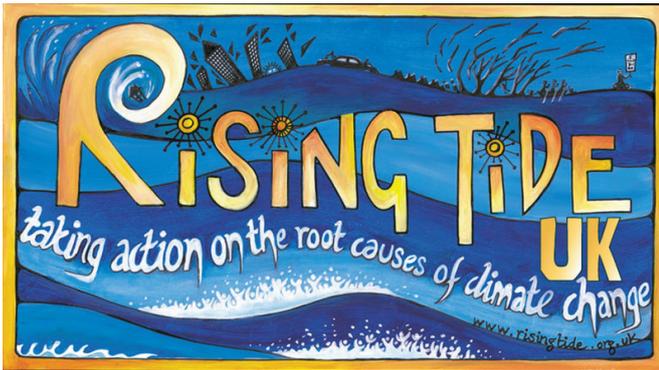
Activist Trauma Support www.activist-trauma.net
Seeds for Change www.seedsforchange.org.uk
The Change Agency www.thechangeagency.org
Trapese www.clearerchannel.org/trapese

Art and Creative

Funny Weather www.funnyweather.org
National Petroleum Gallery
www.nationalpetroleumgallery.org.uk
Shell Oiled Wildlife www.shelloiledwildlife.org.uk

Some Blogs

www.climatechangeaction.blogspot.com
www.climatedenial.org
www.itsgettinghotinhere.org
www.realclimate.org
www.cookie lovescake.blogspot.com



Who Is Rising Tide?

Rising Tide is an international grassroots network that takes creative direct action to confront the root causes of climate change, and promotes local, community-run solutions to our energy needs.

Rising Tide was formed in the Netherlands in 2000 to bring a more radical voice to the COP6 (UN Conference of the Parties) climate talks. Employing a combination of direct action, creative resistance and popular education, and distinguished by its strong focus on climate justice, Rising Tide now spans three continents.

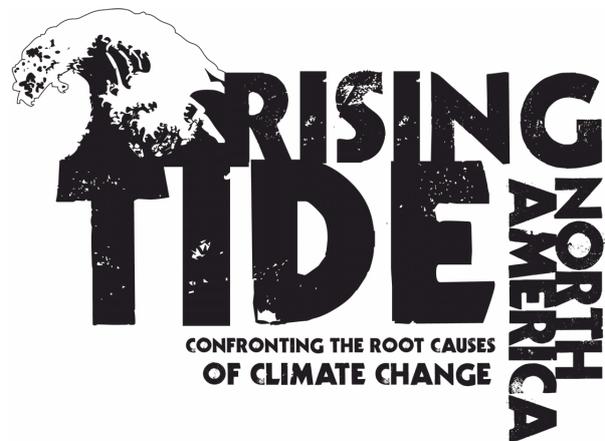
Our Approach

Rising Tide argues that climate change is an issue of social injustice, and is linked to the economic domination of Northern interests and transnational corporations. Rising Tide rejects market-based 'solutions' to climate change such as carbon offsetting and sequestration schemes, and calls instead for a just, community-led transition to a low-carbon society. Rising Tide believes that an immediate end to oil exploration and a dismantling of the fossil fuel economy are necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Rising Tide advocates a grassroots approach, because we believe that changes will be made by people, not state or corporate institutions whose so-called 'solutions' are always, at root, aimed at increasing economic growth, and not building lives of dignity for all. Our work aims to connect the dots between fossil fuels, social injustice, capitalism, and the destabilisation of the global climate.

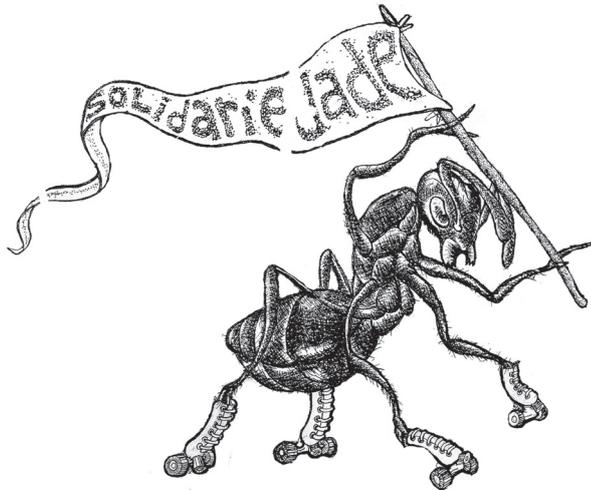
Climate Justice

The people most affected by climate change are the same people who have been exploited and oppressed throughout the history of civilisation - those outside the dominant race and class, and geographical power-base. On a global level, the regions expected to be hit the hardest by severe droughts,



storms and rising sea levels are generally places with the least fossil fuel infrastructure - in other words, the people least responsible for creating climate chaos.

Rising Tide aims to build strong links with those who are already being affected by climate change, and to ally ourselves with local struggles against the fossil fuel industry.



Trapese is a Popular Education Collective who offers workshops and training aimed at inspiring, informing and enabling action to change our world, and developing workable alternatives.
www.trapese.clearerchannel.org



RIOT FOLK

Making folk a threat again!

We are an anti-profit mutual-aid collective of radical artists and musicians. We make music to provoke, educate, heal and inspire.
www.riotfolk.org

The Beehive collective

The Beehive's mission: To cross-pollinate the grassroots, by creating collaborative, anti-copyright images that can be used as educational and organizing tools.
www.beehivecollective.org



Getting Involved

Dismantling the fossil fuel economy and making a just transition to a low-carbon society is an audacious long-term vision. Local groups take different approaches to these goals, and choose particular threads in this incredibly complex problem to work on, depending on the conditions unique to each place, and the skills and passions of those involved.

In the UK, Rising Tide is resisting fossil fuel developments such as the LNG pipeline in Wales and the Shell pipeline in Rosport, Ireland; confronting the proponents of false solutions such as the Carbon Neutral Company (carbon offsets) and the Aviation Emissions Trading summit; and unmasking oil industry greenwash, with a focus on BP and Shell's sponsorship of cultural institutions. We have eight active local groups around the country, with loads more individual contacts, all of which are great ways to get involved in local climate action.

So get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

info@risingtide.org
 07708 794665
www.risingtide.org.uk

RIOT FOLK



"We found using a song at the beginning lays the framework of where we're coming from and sort of softens people up or invites them to participate."

- Evan



Music is a very useful tool for conveying your message and connecting with the people during the session. You can often "get away with" saying much more radical things in the songs than you might dare say outright.

Using music and images at the same time appeals to various senses and different ways of learning (and is a way to break up longer "talky" portions). But most importantly we used music to connect with people on a personal level and address some of the more emotional aspects of climate chaos like despair, and dis-empowerment.

Often, the intros to the songs are as important as the songs themselves, because they help form a "glue" that connected seemingly distant ideas together. For example, we used a song about hyperactivity medication and pharmaceutical companies to address the notion of "false solutions". In the intro to the song, we introduced the metaphor of "pills" and how capitalism always tries to find quick-fix cures to deeply embedded problems.

Music can also help raise funds for the tours by selling compilation CDs that include some of the songs performed.

Music has been an integral part of every social movement. By incorporating political song into a popular education workshop, music truly became a tool for connection, education, inspiration, and healing.

www.riotfolk.org

www.myspace.com/ecstaticmourningrevue

there are animals in cages
with no room to turn around
being sent off to the slaughter
being sold off by the pound
and there are people locked in prisons
where the outcome's much the same
they get death with their convictions
they get numbers for a name

there are women kept in houses
full of mirrors and TV
forced to fear their drunken fathers
and throw up the things they eat
while the same men who grab them
while they're walking down the street
rip their profits and their pleasure
from the earth beneath our feet

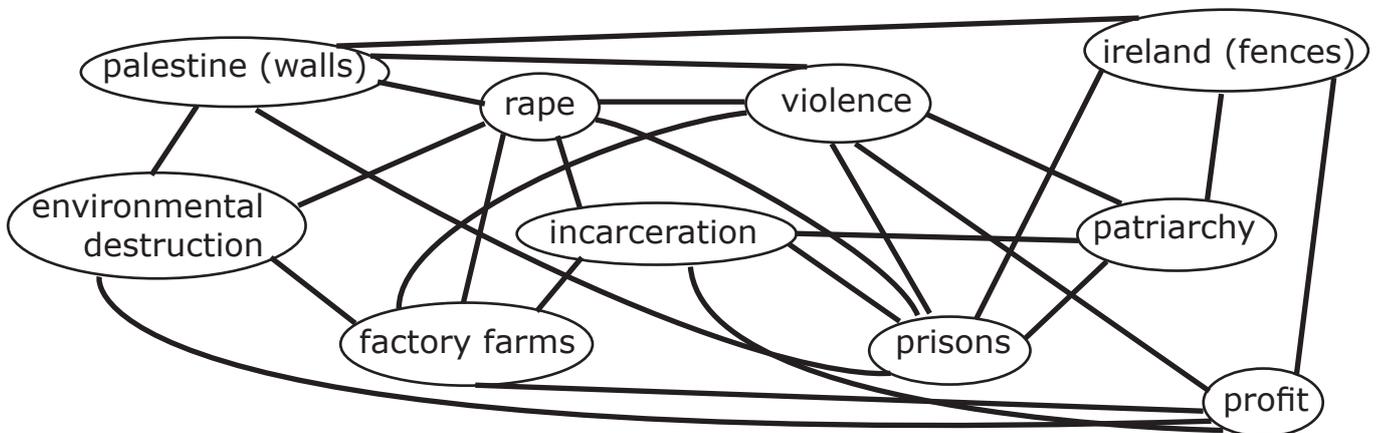
(chorus)
have you ever seen the eyes
of a soul that's occupied?
have you ever had to face
a creature living in a cage?
have you tasted their flesh
or drank their fear?
have you ever seen their eyes?

there are fences high in belfast
where the working class divides
the priests play with politicians
while the poor folks fight and die
and the lower twenty-six you know
are also occupied

by sexism and heroin
and neo-liberal lies

there are children born at checkpoints
throwing stones against the tanks
they play games amongst the rubble
till the glass in their eyes breaks
and with the concrete wall between them
there's no human face at all
another bus is blown to pieces
as the martyr heeds the call

(chorus)
have you ever seen the eyes
of a soul that's occupied?
do you know what has to die
just to make the things you buy?
do you reap the products of their lives?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their--
can't you see it's all the same?
making profit out of pain
rape and torture are the norm
in prisons and factory farms
occupation, genocide
out of sight and out of mind
would you still live this life of lies
if you had to look them in the eye?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?

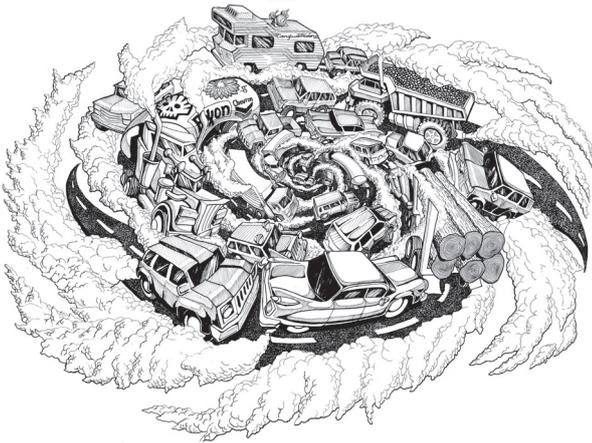


Verse: Am E F C G
Ooh's: F Am
Chorus: F G Am x 4 //
F G E // F G Am
Finale: F G Am E F

factory farms: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
prisons: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
patriarchy: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
wars: rape + violence + incarceration = profit

Ballad of Hurricane Katrina - Evan Greer

<http://riotfolk.org/music/19/09%20The%20Ballad%20of%20Hurricane%20Katrina.mp3>



the ticketseller's terrified
haunted by his dreams
of half-empty trains
rolling out from New Orleans
and the hundreds who came begging
but were harshly turned away
how many of them died
cuz they could not afford to pay?
three days warning
the suburbs turned to ghost towns
second cars left locked in driveways
while in the city people drowned
because they had no escape
from the fury of the sea
what happened here was murder
it was no simple tragedy.

good morning america
how did you get this way?
averted eyes and centuries of chains
here comes the story of the hurricane
and the thousands dead in the city by the sea
murdered by our greed in new orleans

if you're black then you're a looter
if you're white you're finding food
i ask myself what i'd have done in any of their
shoes?
would i have thought about my neighbors in the
other part of town
would i know any of their names? would i have
dared to stick around?
you can blame the president
or you can blame the sea
but they were murdered by the culture
of this economy
murdered by our fear
and our apathy
they were murdered by you
they were murdered by me

how to play this song:
capo: 4 (but put it wherever it's
good for your voice.)

verse:
[Am] [C] [G] (repeat)

chorus:
[F] [G] [C] [C/B] [Am]
[F] [G] [Am]
[F] [G] [C] [C/B] [Am]
[F] [G]
[F] [G] [C-C/B-Am]

we lay in your bed naked and we watched it on tv
as the soldiers and the cops marched past the dead
bodies
they were only there protecting private property
i felt sickened by the sight and sickened by my
memory
of the miles that i'd driven and the gasoline i'd had
burned
of the love songs that i'd written, and the money
that i'd earned
how can we go on living our lives the same way?
how can we keep pretending that we are not part
of their game?

Orchard or Runway? - The Carbon Town Cryer

**Optional Lines:**

Harmondsworth, Sipson, Tuvalu
 Harlington, New Orleans
 Once, before the runways, orchards grew
 Now we're drowning in kerosene
 We ain't diggin' your kerosene, sinner
 I ain't diggin' your kerosene, though I'm a
 sinner too...

The Plough, the King William and the
 Crown
 Allotments and orchards anew
 We're calling last orders on airborne ma-
 rauders
 With courage, sow seeds, burst through!

The police helicopter's drone
 A fossil-fuelled moan
 A dying, crying, lost lament -
 They've lost the argument/

We're calling out around the world - are
 you ready for a brand new beat?
 Chaos is here and the time is right for
 dancing on the ruins of multinational
 corporations

Resistance is fertile, that's what they say,
 so let's plant a seed in the runway and
 watch it grow...

Listen:
www.myspace.com/ecstaticmourningrevue

We ain't gonna have no third runway round here
 And if we stand together we've got nothing to fear
 We're gonna run this Camp on wind, wave and sun
 And we might even have a little revolution
 But we ain't gonna have no more runways round
 here...

We all pay for your holiday heaven you know
 That 747 is a murder weapon you know
 Burning all this kerosene's
 Turning London into New Orleans
 Your 747 is a murder weapon you know...

So should I write an email to Ruth Kelly?
 Since when did she and her kind act truthfully?
 I would rather spend my time
 Blocking the scene of this climate crime
 But should I send an email to Ruth Kelly?

And we're gonna shut that detention centre all the
 way down
 We screw their countries and expect them to sit
 back and drown
 Harmondsworth twinned with New Orleans
 Let's twin reality with our dreams
 And we're gonna tear those detention centres all
 the way down...

We ain't gonna have no third runway round here
 And if we stand together we've got nothing to fear
 We're gonna have a song, we're gonna have a
 dance
 And we're gonna help Sipson have a fighting
 chance
 And we ain't gonna have no more runways round
 here

Pear trees, plum trees, maybe a Cox's apple tree,
 Back in the middle of the 19th century
 You know it was orchards almost as far as the eye
 could see
 Now concrete has the upper hand - temporarily
 And injustice has the upper hand - temporarily
 Pear trees, plum trees, maybe some olive trees
 Could you bust up through the concrete runways
 please?
 Some seeds have a habit of lying dormant until the
 time is right
 We are the seeds, we are the sky,
 We are the concrete, don't ask why
 We are the water, we are the sun...
 coming out!

We ain't gonna have no more runways round here
 And if we stand together we've got nothing to fear
 We've gotta run the world on wind, wave and sun
 And we've got to have a little revolution
 If we ain't gonna have any runways anywhere...

